



# Fairview - Clayton Park

## District 15 Newsletter

### Halifax Regional Municipality

Councillor Russell Walker

Fall 2010



#### **Russell Walker, Councillor - District 15**

Halifax Regional Municipality

P.O. Box 1749

Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Home.....443-8010

Cell.....497-7215

Home Fax.....443-6513

City Hall.....490-4050

City Hall Fax.....490-4122

E-mail.....walkerr@halifax.ca



### Dear Residents

Greetings to all residents of District 15 and a heartfelt welcome to those who have recently moved to our area. As always, it continues to be a pleasure to represent you on Regional Council. I hope this newsletter is helpful in updating you on community and HRM issues. If you have concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

We are about to head into a very exciting year. In February 2011, thousands of our country's best and brightest will set their sights on HRM as we host the Canada Winter Games. From February 11-27, more than 5,000 participants and thousands of visitors will head to HRM for the two-week event. I encourage everyone to do their part in welcoming our many participants and visitors.

I wish you and your families a very happy, safe and healthy holiday season. For information on holiday activities, please check out HRM's website at [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca).

### LED Street Lighting Project

The LED street lighting project has been in place for one year. Results have been quite positive. Adjustments were made on Main Avenue in response to concerns about glare and light coverage.

The pilot has helped HRM with its decision to purchase an additional 2100 LED street lights this year. Installation of these new fixtures commenced October 25th and will continue for approximately 15 weeks. Both Dunbrack Street and Lacewood Drive are scheduled for street light upgrades. Expect to see crews in these areas during November and/or December.

This will involve replacing the traditional cobra head style fixtures with full cut-off LED fixtures very similar to those installed on Main Avenue. These fixtures are designed to meet recommended street and sidewalk light levels while reducing energy consumption by 50 percent. This will translate into annual power bill savings to HRM in excess of \$100,000, as well as impact the municipality's environmental footprint through reductions to greenhouse gas emissions in the order of 1000 tonnes every year.

### Northcliffe Community Centre

HRM recreation programming will continue to be offered at the Northcliffe Community Centre until the Canada Games Centre is fully opened to the public sometime next March. This will ensure that services offered will continue without interruption. After March 2011, the recreation programs currently offered at the Northcliffe Community Centre will be offered at the new Canada Games Centre as well as enhanced recreation opportunities.

In anticipation of the closure of the Northcliffe Centre, staff has been assessing the Northcliffe property and gathering information pertinent to potential reuse. This is being done to facilitate a public process for the future use of the Northcliffe property. The process should start in the spring. While rumors may abound, no determinations have been made as to the future use of the property and there will be no determinations made prior to public input. Council and staff look forward to hearing your views on the future of the lands. Please watch for public notices advising of dates and times.

## 2009/10 Sidewalk & Paving Renewals

The following projects, have been approved as part of the 2010/11 Capital Budget:

- Borden Street - Main to Adelaide (surface seal)
- Central Avenue - Hillcrest to Willett (thin overlay)
- Chain of Lakes Trail - Lakeside Park to Joseph Howe (trail)
- Dunbrack at Willett Traffic Signal Rehab (traffic signal upgrade)
- Glenforest Drive - Lacewood to Southhill (curb renewal)
- Glenforest Drive - Lacewood to Southhill (paving resurfacing)
- Glenforest Drive - Civic 67 to Civic 61N (sidewalk renewal)
- Joseph Howe Drive - Dutch Village to Bayers SL (planer patching)
- Maple Street - Main to Ashdale (surface seal)
- Ramp DV-B - Joseph Howe to Bedford Highway SL (paving renewal)
- Rosedale Avenue - Dutch Village to Alex (surface seal)
- Rowe Avenue - Bayers Road to Scot (surface seal)

The work on Glenforest Drive from Lacewood to Southhill consists of replacing existing asphalt curb with concrete curb, cold planing some existing asphalt and some new asphalt paving. This work is expected to be completed this fall.

## New Turning Lanes on Joseph Howe Drive

Last year, HRM purchased a portion of the abandoned rail line alongside Joseph Howe Drive. Enough land was purchased to contain both a multi-use trail and an additional lane on Joseph Howe Drive. We are now in the process of evaluating how using this space to construct additional turning lanes can help to reduce traffic congestion in this area. The results of our modeling show that new turning lanes will have a very positive effect on traffic.

A public open house session will be held soon to present the ideas that have been explored and to hear how the design might be modified to improve efficiency and minimize impacts. A plan for this project is available at <http://www.halifax.ca/traffic/FutureTransportationProjects.html>

## Metro Transit 5-Year Strategic Operations Plan

In 2010, Regional Council approved a 5-Year Strategic Operations Plan for Metro Transit to guide future service expansion and infrastructure improvements. The Plan includes recommendations for existing route and service efficiencies, proposed new routes, new terminals and upgrades, and improvements to passenger communications, signage and technology, including the following changes affecting District 15:

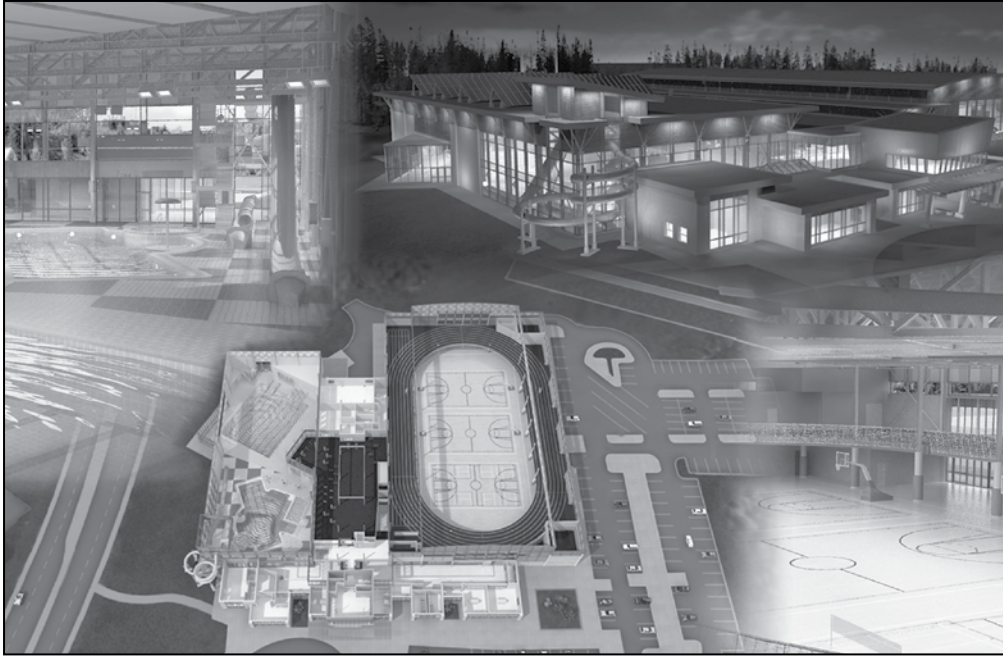
**Urban Express** - In August 2010, all conventional route #30's were introduced as Urban Express. Urban Express routes provide limited stop service within the urban core, to help Metro Transit stay on schedule and get you to your destination on time. Urban Express routes continue to service all local community stops for passenger convenience.

**New Lacewood Terminal** - Metro Transit is in the process of replacing the Lacewood Terminal to accommodate the growing population in this area and to increase terminal accessibility and passenger amenities. On November 1st Chebucto Community Council approved, in principle, the recommendation that the Willett Street site option be pursued as the location for the new Lacewood Terminal. Chebucto Community Council will forward the recommendation to Regional Council for their approval. Planning Services will be working through the process to amend the Land-Use Bylaw in the area to allow the transit terminal to be built on the Willett Street site. This will require a future public hearing. If the public hearing results in a decision to amend the Land-Use Bylaw in favour of transit terminals, and approval is received from Regional Council on the site selection, Metro Transit will begin a detailed design. The start date for this is dependent on these other processes, but it is hoped that the project will get underway early this winter.

For more information on HRM's 5-Year Strategic Operations Plan, please visit <http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/5YearStrategicOperationsPlan.html>

## Canada Games Centre

Healthy communities need places for people to gather, whether to compete in sport, learn in a classroom, or meet with friends. The Canada Games Centre will bring people from western Halifax and across HRM together in recreation, sport and community. The goal of the Canada Games Centre is accessibility. This facility will provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. Not everyone is a competitive athlete, but everyone should be allowed the chance to build their own healthy lifestyle through community recreation and sport. The new Canada Games Centre will be a facility for everyone.



The new state-of-the-art centre is nearing completion. The slides have been installed, the pool has been filled and the floors have been laid. With one of the largest solar installations in Canada, the two hundred solar panels on the roof will heat the facility's water and contribute significantly to the overall green features of the building. This 176,000 square foot building, which has been constructed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver specifications, offers a field house, fitness centre, aquatic centre, track and a variety of community and leisure spaces. Once commissioned, the centre will host three Canada Games test events, providing staff and volunteers with an invaluable training experience.

The new Centre will open for special events and open houses in January 2011. February will be totally devoted to hosting the Canada Games. In March 2011, the Centre will officially open to the public, with recreational programming (like swimming lessons) beginning in April.

For more information on the Canada Games Centre and the programs being offered, keep checking [www.halifax.ca/canadagamescentre](http://www.halifax.ca/canadagamescentre).

I would like to extend congratulations and welcome to Gary Furlong, General Manager for the Canada Games Centre. Gary has over 15 years experience in recreation, sport and facility administration. Gary will be responsible for managing the overall operation of the new centre including strategic development, financial accountability, and resource allocation for the execution of the Centre's vision, mission, mandate and strategic plan.



### Development of Former Saint Lawrence Church Property

On August 10, 2010, Regional Council approved changes to the Halifax Municipal Planning Strategy to allow Council to consider development agreements for a mix of residential and commercial uses on the properties bounded by Joseph Howe Drive, Dutch Village Road and Andrew Street.

On October 4, 2010, Chebucto Community Council approved a development agreement based on these amendments. The development agreement is to allow for a mixed use building and a commercial building at 3473 Dutch Village Road, the site of the former Saint Lawrence Church Rectory and Centre.

Facing Joseph Howe Drive will be a five storey commercial building. Facing Dutch Village Road will be a mixed use building, with one level of commercial near the street and five levels of residential units. The residential portion of the building will step up to twelve levels in the centre of the site. Once the development agreement has been registered on the property, the developer (3245544 Nova Scotia Limited) will be able to apply for building permits.



## Chain of Lake Trail

In late 2009 HRM reached a purchase agreement with CN for the lands known as the Chester and Lakeside Spur Lines. The use of former rail lines within Nova Scotia for multi-use trails is well-established. Trails provide important infrastructure throughout the rural and suburban areas of HRM. The Chester Spur is an important link that connects the western section of HRM to the Peninsula. This is the missing link to connect the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Trail to the Halifax Urban Greenway. The Chain of Lakes Trail will also be Phase II of the Trans Canada Trail in Nova Scotia, beginning in Point Pleasant Park and running southward along the South Shore to Yarmouth. With the acquisition of the former rail corridor, an opportunity arose to obtain funding under the Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. A project was negotiated and announced on January 4, 2010 which defined a total cost of \$1,000,000 with \$666,666 coming from the Federal and Provincial Partners. An in-house design of the trail was completed by HRM staff. The design was limited to constructing a 3.5 metre wide trail tread along the entire 7.75 km of the corridor. A tender call was issued in June 2010 with the winning bidder being Dexter Construction Company Limited.

The Halifax Regional Trails Program is based on the Community Development Model. A core of dedicated volunteers is an invaluable asset towards trail development and long term stewardship. A community group, the Chain of Lakes Trail Association (COLTA), was formed to lead the conversion of the Chester Spur Rail Line into an Active Transportation Greenway Corridor. The generally 30 metre wide corridor will be further developed by the community group.



The trail begins across from the Superstore on Joseph Howe Drive and ends at Lakeside Drive. The surface is asphalt to the North West Arm Drive underpass where it continues with a compacted crusher dust surface. The portion between Chain Lake Drive and Horse Shoe Lake Drive in the Bayers Lake Industrial Park is also paved. A paved surface permits the easy use of narrow wheels found on skateboards and in-line skates. The paved surface also permits the trail to be plowed of snow. A year round Active Transportation Corridor is to be the end product. As an Active Transportation Corridor, all non-motorized modes are permitted, hikers, bikers, electric wheelchairs and scooters, etc. The trail will be managed as an HRM park, with by-laws such as dogs on leash and hours of operation applying.

The "trail closed" signs will remain until HRM has accepted the trail as completed. It is anticipated that the remaining work will be completed by the end of November.

## BMO Centre (HRM's New 4Pad Arena)

HRM is pleased to announce the opening of their new four-sheet ice facility, the BMO Centre. This facility is an example of the commitment that Regional Council has to the health and well-being of our citizens, and more specifically, to sport and recreation in our communities. The facility will provide the most comfortable playing and spectator environment ever built in HRM and, with its close proximity to our area, it is a welcome addition for the residents of District 15.

The facility includes:

- four NHL size ice sheets
- 20 full size dressing rooms with showers
- referee and extra change rooms to accommodate the needs of all teams
- rental offices for leagues or clubs that want to have a constant presence at the facility or for use during tournaments
- large board/meeting room available for access to the community
- large multipurpose room for regular activities, hospitality suite, or sport camps
- spacious warm and cold viewing area at ice level and above ice level with heated seating
- specially designed areas for sledge hockey and athletes

